

prior art is found that anticipates or renders obvious the claims, the MPEP provides that the search of the Markush-type claims shall be extended.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the requirement for election of species be withdrawn so the restricted subject matter can be examined together.

Conclusion

It is believed that extensions of time are not required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply to Requirement for Restriction and Election of Species is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert W. Somond, Reg No. 32,893, for:

Michele A. Cimbala
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 33,851

Date: Sept. 25, 2006
1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600

586067.1